

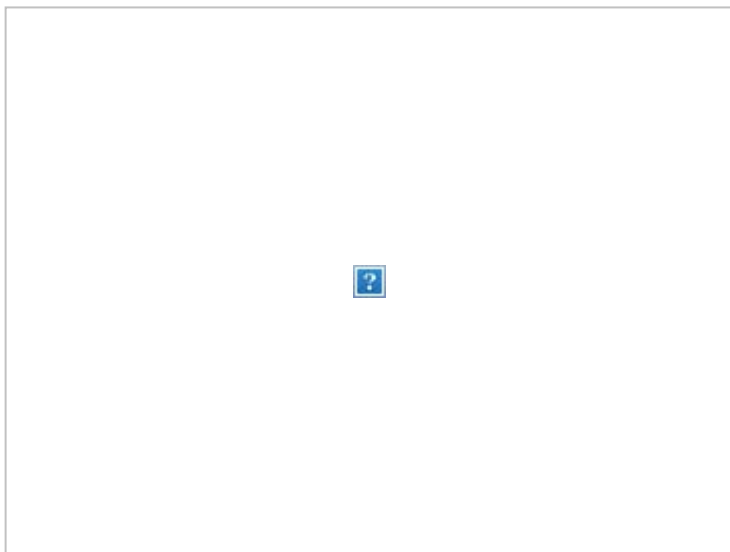
From: [Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors](#)
To: [Kent Smith](#)
Subject: The High Cost of Getting High
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2015 7:36:57 AM

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The Sustainable Development Report

Issue No. 48: July 2015



The High Cost of Getting High

We often write about the need to consider the equity, environmental and economic implications of our policies, advocacy and personal choices. Even in seemingly unrelated policy areas, by asking the right questions we can see the interconnectedness of the three E's. For example, the debate over the decriminalization of marijuana use has been framed by health, civil liberty, public safety, and tax revenue issues. But, as our lead article details, the cultivation of pot indoors has real energy and greenhouse gas impacts. On the flip side, the way California spends the revenue generated from its pioneering greenhouse gas emission reduction program (i.e., cap-and-trade) has enormous social equity concerns. And in this time of smart phone apps and gee-whiz digital advances, we think a robust, equitable economy requires universal access to broadband - today's equivalent of the public library, schoolhouse, encyclopedia, telephone, community center, and employment office all rolled into one. So as you embrace summer by reading the new old Harper Lee novel, enjoying the latest blockbuster, or reveling in the great outdoors, you might consider the interconnectedness of it all. Or just take a deep

City of Woodland Hosts Nation's First Zero Net Energy Affordable Housing

Non-profit sustainable affordable housing developer **Mutual Housing California** built the nation's first certified zero-net energy rental housing project in the City of Woodland. Certified by the U.S. Department of Energy's Zero Energy Ready Home Program, the 3-acre **Mutual Housing at Spring Lake** project provides 62 affordable apartments and townhomes serving primarily low-income **agricultural workers and their families in the community.**

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Cal State LA is Coming Downtown

Cal State LA is headed to

breath and relax.

Sincerely,

Cecilia V. Estolano, Jennifer LeSar, Katherine A. Perez-Estolano



The Herb Ain't Green

Indoor agriculture is touted as a way to make urban farming more **prevalent**, and as a method to **sustainably** increase food production in arid climates. But the expense of providing **artificial light** and the relatively high cost of urban land have largely precluded this specialized type of agriculture from widespread adoption. However, there are niche markets where economic incentives make indoor growing appealing in spite of its extraordinarily high energy costs. In the U.S., marijuana production is perhaps the most prominent (and controversial) sector to embrace wholesale indoor cultivation. For the **growing list** of jurisdictions where cannabis can be grown legally, localities and **utility providers** are worried about the energy needs of this burgeoning industry. For policymakers, the highly regulated environment for legal marijuana producers presents an opportunity to mandate operational efficiencies. But do other energy-intensive sectors stand to learn a thing or two from sustainably grown pot?

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Downtown Los Angeles. The university, located in East Los Angeles, **announced** that it will open a state-of-the-art 21,000 square foot **satellite campus** on 8th Street and Grand Avenue in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles.

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Events

LURN's Summer Nights & City Stars

July 30, 2015
Los Angeles, CA
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Southeast LA River Bike Ride & Run

July 25, 2015
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Los Angeles Walks is Hiring a Policy & Program Manager

Application Deadline:
August 6, 2015
5:00 p.m.

Sustainable Development & Land Recycling: Policy, Funding, and Implementation

August 13, 2015
Fresno, CA
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2015 Congreso: People, Power, Policy

August 24-25, 2015
Los Angeles, CA

California Advanced Services Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant/Revolving Loan Account Applications



(CPUC Funding for
broadband infrastructure in
affordable housing
developments)
Next Deadline: October 1,
2015

**Registration open for
Rail~Volution 2015**
October 25-28, 2015
Dallas, TX

The Cap-and-Trade Spigot Opens

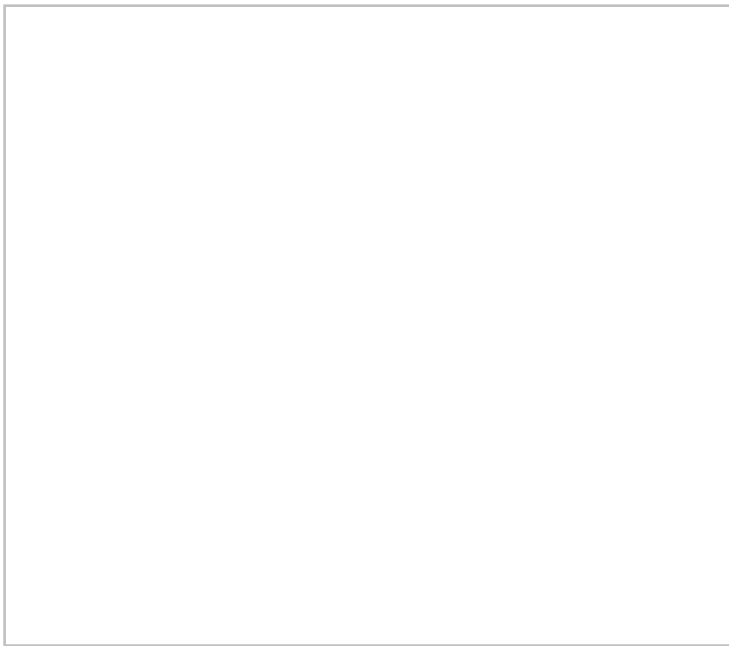
While the efficacy of California's cap-and-trade program in reducing the state's overall greenhouse gas emissions continues to be a **subject of debate**, the program's ability to generate revenue (almost \$1 billion through 2014) has been impressive. And as the pot of cap-and-trade revenue grows, the state is seeing **more competing proposals for funding**. Over the past month or so, proceeds from the auction of emissions permits have been allocated to a host of **new programs** for some innovative projects. In addition, the state's cap-and-trade program is focusing resources to serve more low-income and **disadvantaged communities**. Passed in 2012, **SB 535** requires allocating a minimum of 25 percent of the state's cap-and-trade revenues to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities; a minimum of ten percent of the proceeds must be used for projects located in disadvantaged communities. With this mandate in mind, we look at a few of the more innovative programs that were awarded funding to help improve our most vulnerable communities.

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About Us

ELP Advisors works with cities, agencies, stakeholders, foundations and business groups to craft strategies to grow thriving, healthy, vibrant communities. If you have questions or comments please contact **Richard France**, Newsletter Editor and Senior Associate at ELP Advisors.





Narrowing the Digital Divide

According to the FCC's 2015 Broadband Progress Report, **100 million** American residents don't have broadband internet service at home, even if their buildings are equipped with the necessary infrastructure. For many low-income households, the average monthly service cost of \$42 is simply out of reach. The **FCC recognizes** that broadband "has become essential to participation in modern society, offering access to jobs, education, healthcare, government services and opportunity." In spite of this recognized need, home internet is still not widely available for large segments of the population. But revised policies at the federal and state level may be helping to expand broadband internet service and narrow the nation's digital divide.

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